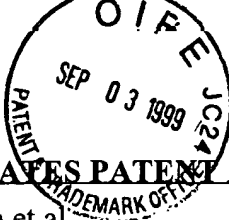


S/N 09/077,572



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael A. Apicella et al.

Examiner: S. Devi

Serial No.: 09/077,572

Group Art Unit: 1641

Filed: June 1, 1998

Docket: 875.001US2

Title: NON-TOXIC MUTANTS OF PATHOGENIC GRAM-NEGATIVE BACTERIA

#13/C
9/12/99

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

In response to the Office Action mailed April 28, 1999, please amend the application as follows.

This response is accompanied by a Petition, as well as the appropriate fee, to obtain a one-month extension of the period for responding to the Office Action, thereby moving the deadline for response from July 28, 1999 to August 28, 1999 (Saturday).

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, in the first line, after the title, please insert the following:

~~This application is a national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of international patent application number PCT/US96/18984, filed on November 27, 1996, which in turn is an international filing of U.S. patent application number 08/565,943 filed on December 1, 1995.~~

On page 12, line 13, please delete "acylyacyl" and substitute therefor --acyloxyacyl--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the following claims 22-26 and 29, and add new claims 30 and 31:

22. (Amended) A method of making [in a gram-negative bacterial pathogen] a mutant endotoxin [of substantially reduced toxicity when compared to the endotoxin of the wild type gram-negative bacterial pathogen, the method] comprising mutating an *htrB* gene within [the] a gram-negative bacterial pathogen, wherein [said mutation causes a phenotype of a resultant *htrB* mutant characterized by a mutant] the *htrB* gene encodes an endotoxin lacking one or more secondary acyl chains of lipid A contained in the wild type gram-negative bacterial pathogen,